

# Sts Anne and Joachim

## CATHOLIC PARISH OF SUNRAYSIA

IRYMPLE, MERBEIN, MILDURA, RED CLIFFS AND WERRIMULL

**Parish Priest:** Fr Matthew Thomas

**Assistant Priest:** Fr John Corrigan

**Sunday Bulletin:** Edition 50/2023

**Website:** [www.sunraysiacatholic.org](http://www.sunraysiacatholic.org)

3rd Sunday of Advent Year B / 17th December 2023

### Message from our Parish Priest

*My soul rejoices in my God*, is today's psalm response. Having the candle of joy as the third week of advent, reminds us of the joy the shepherd's experienced in being given the news of Jesus' birth, the joy Mary and Joseph also experienced and the joy for each one of us.

Making straight our path in life might seem like something easy but we are often going up and down hills and mountains. Dealing with other people can often bring challenges but having God in our lives can give us the opportunity to keep moving forward towards him.

Please note the changes for masses next Sunday morning as its Christmas Eve.

Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9am Mildura  
all other mass centres will have Christmas Eve mass times.

God Bless,  
Fr Matthew.

### Ordination to the Diaconate

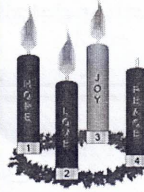
Seminarian Cay Trinh will be ordained Deacon for the Diocese of Ballarat on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 10am. Please pray for Cay Trinh.

### Parish Contact Details

*Administration Officer:* Ms Carmel Russo  
*Office Hours:* Tuesday to Friday, 9am – 4pm  
257 Eleventh Street Mildura  
PO Box 10037, Mildura Vic 3502  
*Phone:* 03 5021 2872 or 0417 862 082  
*E-mail:* [sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:sunraysia@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### Presbytery Tap & Go Units

These Units are located at all church entrances, this enables us to support our Priests.



### Third Advent Candle—Joy

The third candle is the Shepherd's Candle, as we remember to rejoice in Christ's birth, like the shepherds on the first Christmas Eve. It is also called Gaudette

Sunday from the Latin Philippians 4:4,5 "rejoice in the Lord always." The third candle is usually pink or rose-coloured. Rose (Pink) is associated with joy, and it is on the third Sunday of Advent, we turn from repentance towards the celebration of Christ's imminent birth.

### Celebrating Advent

During the Season of Advent we prepare for Christmas. Please join us in our final prayer and reflection in **Monaghan Room** on **Thursday, December 21 at 2 pm.**

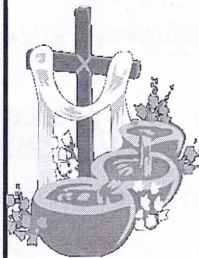
For further details contact:  
Sr Helen 0438 734 524.



### Baptisms

We welcome into our Parish Faith Communities:

**Violet Burns,**  
**Adley & Percy Law,**  
**Celine Iudica and**  
**Jackson Smith**



whose baptism occurs this weekend.

"He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light."

John 1:7

### Finances – last weekend's Collections

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection</b> (supporting Priests & Presbytery)	<b>\$2145.50</b>
<b>2nd Collection</b> (includes all EFT, DD & CC)	<b>\$1225.90</b>
<b>Loose Plate</b>	<b>\$ 672.95</b>
<b>This Week's Counting Team</b>	<b>Team 4—M Roper</b>
<b>Next week's Counting Team</b>	<b>Fr Matthew</b>



**Sacred Heart Church**  
**Nativity Play**  
**Christmas Eve 2023**

Children are invited to attend and be part of our traditional Nativity Play on Christmas Eve at 6pm. The second will be a dress rehearsal on Wednesday, **December 20th at 5.30pm.**

Please contact the Parish Office for further details on 5021 2872.

**Christmas Masses—Roster**

Volunteers are needed for the Christmas Masses at all Churches.

Please see Roster Sheets at the back of each church.

**Bulletin Rosters 2024**

The rosters for Sacred Heart Church—Counting Teams, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers were sent out via email last week. If you would like a printed copy please call into the Parish Office.

**Reminder**

If your personal details have changed eg: change of phone number, email address, residential or postal address please contact the Parish Office so the database can be updated.

**Sts Anne and Joachim Piety Stalls**

**Sacred Heart Church** has Christmas Cards and 2024 Columban Calendars for sale.

**St Joseph's Church Red Cliffs**—Piety stall is opened Sunday's after the 10am Mass with a range of Christmas gift ideas or to organise an appointment call Janine on 0438 730 976.

**WEEKLY PRAYER & SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

*Sacred Heart Church Mildura*

**Exposition and Benediction:** Tuesday 4pm  
**Charismatic Group:** Tuesday after 6pm Mass  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday after 9:30am Mass

*Monaghan Centre*

**Christian Meditation:** Saturday 11.30am  
**Children's Catechesis:** Saturday 10am – 11am

**CHRISTMAS SEASON**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sun 24 Dec)**

Sat 23 Dec: 6pm Mildura Mass

Sun 24 Dec: 9am Mildura Mass

Please note other Sunday Masses are cancelled in lieu of Christmas Eve Mass.

**Christmas Eve (Sun 24 Dec)**

6pm Mildura

6pm Werrimull

8pm Red Cliffs

8pm Merbein

10pm Mildura

Midnight Mildura

**Christmas Day (Monday 25 Dec)**

8.30am Irymple

9am Mildura

(Carols sung prior to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services)

**Advance Notice**

**Sacred Heart Parish Office Hours**

**for December 2023 & January 2024**

Please note from **22nd December 2023 2pm to 2nd January 2024** the Parish Office will be closed.

From **2nd January till 25th January** the operating hours for the Parish Office will be from **9am till 12noon only.**

**Friday 26th January Office closed Public Holiday.**

The Office will reopen to normal operating hours from Tuesday 30th January 2024.

**I am the voice of one  
crying out in the wilderness,  
"Make straight the way of the Lord."**

**PARISH SCHOOLS CONTACT**

**Sacred Heart Primary School, Mildura**  
*Principal: Mr Mark Gibson. Ph: 5023 1204*

**St Paul's Primary School, Mildura**  
*Principal: Mr Vince Muscatello. Ph: 5023 4567*

**St Joseph's Primary School, Red Cliffs**  
*Principal: Mrs Naomi Kennedy. Ph: 5024 1654*

**Our Lady of Sacred Heart, Merbein**  
*Principal: Mrs Narelle Gallagher. Ph: 5025 2258*

**St Joseph's Secondary College, Mildura**  
*Principal: Mrs Marg Blythman. Ph: 5018 8000*

Sts Anne and Joachim Catholic Parish of Sunraysia adheres to the Child Safe Standards of Victoria.

Our policies are on display in each church, and on our website.

Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Vince Pileggi.**

**This Weekend Roster: 16th & 17th December 2023**

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
<b>Sat 6pm Mildura</b>	R Tongue	M Cirillo, R Tongue, Volunteer please		M Sullivan Singing Group
<b>Sun 8.30am</b>	D Knight			M Smith
<b>Sun 9am Mildura</b>	L Welsh	N Fatai, B Castilo, R O'Callaghan	Baptism Family	Tongan Community, M Guthrie
<b>Sun 10am Red Cliffs</b>	M Milani	S Orr	M Bell	T Lewis, Tongan Choir
<b>Sun 10.30am Merbein</b>	K Aston	N Prevedello	R Antony family	K East
<b>Sun 5pm Mildura</b>	B Bunting	M Bowring, C Carlucci, V Carlucci	Baptism Family	M Hammond, J Macri, J Ljubic

**Next Weekend Roster: 23rd & 24th December 2023**

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Offertory	Music
<b>Sat 6pm Mildura</b>	A Naray	A Greville, P Kerr Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	M Guthrie M Bowring
<b>Sun 9am Mildura</b>	R Op't Hoog	Volunteer Please	Volunteer Please	T Fainga'anuku
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	As per Christmas Roster	As per Christmas Roster	As per Christmas Roster	As per Christmas Roster
<b>Christmas Day</b>	As per Christmas Roster	As per Christmas Roster	As per Christmas Roster	As per Christmas Roster

**MASS SCHEDULE THIS WEEK**

Monday	10am	Funeral Graveside
Tuesday	9.30am	Red Cliffs
	6pm	Mildura
Wednesday	10am	Funeral Mildura
Thursday	9.30am	Merbein No Mass
	9.30am	Mildura
	10am	Funeral Graveside
	5.30pm	Red Cliffs
Friday	6pm	Mildura
Saturday	9.30am	Mildura
	6pm	Mildura
Sunday	9am	Mildura
Christmas Eve	6pm	Mildura
	6pm	Werrimull
	7.30pm	Carols Red Cliffs
	8pm	Merbein
	6pm	Mildura
	7.30pm	Carols Red Cliffs
	8pm	Merbein
	10pm	Mildura
	Midnight	Mildura
Christmas Day	8.30am	Irymple
	9am	Mildura

**Who am I?**

**What's Happening**

**December 2023**

- Tue 19 Dec:** BUPA Aged Care Service 1pm
- Wed 20 Dec:** Jacaranda Village Aged Care Service 2pm
- Wed 20 Dec:** Anointing Mass, Mildura 2pm
- Sun 31 Dec:** Feast Day of the Holy Family

**January 2024**

- Mon 1st Jan:** Mary Mother of God 9.30am
- Sat 6 Jan:** Marian Mass—Mother of the Saviour 9.30am
- Sun 7 Jan:** The Epiphany of the Lord
- Thu 11 Jan:** Anointing Mass, Red Cliffs 5.30pm
- Thu 18 Jan:** Anointing Mass, Merbein 9.30am
- Wed 24 Jan:** Anointing Mass, Mildura Church 2pm
- Wed 24 Jan:** Baptism Preparation Evening 7pm, Monaghan Centre
- Fri 26 Jan:** Australia Day, Mass 6pm

**Please Pray for the Sick**

- Vincent Tripodi
- Tess Kerr
- Catherine Bell
- Natalina D'Anna
- Morgan Dias-Jones

*If you want a sick person prayed for, ask their permission. Names will be included for the duration of one month after which family or friends can request more time.*

**Recent Deaths**

- Frank Roccisano,
- Tony Leonardis (Spain)

**Anniversaries**

- Jacob Nemtsas,

**Mildura:**

- Saturday 6pm: Peter, Maria, Joseph & Lucia Tran, Maria Nguyen & All Souls, Vincenza & Caterina Monteleone, Leo & Giuseppe Monteleone, Peppina Timpano, Nick Mazza, Milton Lowe

**Sunday 9am:**

- Melina Rooca (1 yr anniversary), Domenico Ficarra, Leo & Antonia DeMaria

**Merbein:**

- Sid Wells, Rocco DiMase, Frank Fox, Vincenzo & Angela Taglierini and Betty Stirrat

**Red Cliffs:**

- Giuseppe & Maria D'Anna, Domenico & Caterina D'Anna, Giuseppe D'Anna, Cecilia & Domenica D'Anna, Vincenza Tassone

*Please note that if you have booked a memorial mass you are reminded to speak to the priest prior to the mass to let him know you are there.*



## First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

## Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

## Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel John 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



**MAKE  
STRAIGHT  
THE WAY  
OF THE  
LORD**

**JOHN  
1:23**

Knowing-Jesus.com

Next Weeks Readings: / 4th Sunday of Advent Year B 24th December 2023

**First Reading:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

**Psalm:** Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

**Response:** For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**Second Reading:** Romans 16:25-27

**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

